

**Analysis of the Online Survey “Inspiring Ideas”
Conducted on Behalf of the
South Pasadena Public Library
Analysis of the Community-Related Questions**

November 2016



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The Survey

A survey was developed to better understand what residents and users of the South Pasadena Public Library expect of their community and of the library itself. The online survey was available to potential respondents from ?? to ?? and a total of ?? individuals completed a majority of the survey questions (the survey was composed of a total of 39 questions – some of which were open-ended asking the respondent to enter as much text as they wished).

The Analysis

Between 197 and 125 South Pasadena community residents responded to five open-ended questions about their community, its challenges and its future. The responses make for interesting reading and will be of interest to the members of the Library Board and city policy makers.

Q23. What kind of community do you want?

197 responses

Seniors Nice Close Knit Knowledge Literate Civil
 Place Sharing Culture Compassionate
 Educated Smart Friendly Intelligent
 Community Tolerant Safe Environment
 Library Positive Respectful Thrive
 Open Minded Meeting Peaceful Think Focused
 Integrated

Some of the more frequently used words include: Community (56), friendly (35), safe (27), library (15), respectful (7), culture (8), place (7), literate (6), open minded (6), peaceful (6), and integrated (3).

See the Appendix for a listing of all comments.

Q24. What concerns do you have about the community?

151 responses

Insular Understanding Safety Crowding Interest Driving
 Increases High Cost of Housing Space
 Small Businesses Live Mission Community
 Making Library Safe Homeless
 Services from City Concerns Social Think Little
 Traffic Trump School Wealth Crime Technology

Some of the more frequently used words include: library (19), homeless (13), community (17), concerns (7), live (7), safety (4), interest (5), increases (5), think (6), traffic (9), school (4), crime (6), and technology (4).

See the Appendix for a listing of all comments.

Q25. What do you think is keeping the community from making progress?

145 responses

Age Monetary Issue Division Poor Divide Think Politicians
Housing Parking Money Commercial
Library Bias Community Council
Making Politics Live Answer Funding Vision
Residents Financial Attitude Opportunities
Improvements Technology

Some of the more frequently used words include: community (19), library (11), making (9), funding (7), money (9), housing (7), making (9), residents (6), attitude (4), poor (4), think (6) and bias (2).

See the Appendix for a listing of all comments.

Q 26. What can be done to improve the community?

131 responses

South Pasadena Stop Issues Policy Improve Fair
 Reading Raise Traffic Listen Public Asking
 Library Rent Control Community
 Engaging Learning Parking Streets Effectively
 Affordable Housing Outside
 Communication Services Seniors Teens
 Encouraging Outreach

Some of the more frequently used words include: community (11), library (7), learning (6), reading (5), traffic (6), streets (6), affordable housing (5), communication (5), and seniors (4).

See the Appendix for a listing of all comments.

Q27. What would success in the community look like to you?

125 responses

Citizens Equality Question Positive Cultural Backgrounds
 South Pasadena Focus Look Books
 Public Harmony Library Environment
 Community Participation Place Access
 Safe Reading Businesses Described Lots Survey
 Homeless Level Streets

Some of the more frequently used words include: community (17), library (13), place (10), look (5), safe (8), businesses (5), homeless (4), streets (4), cultural (4), and participation (3).

See the Appendix for a listing of all comments.

SPPL Online Survey Community Related Questions Appendix

Q23. What kind of community do you want?

197 responses

An ethnically diverse community who is concerned with education, environment, and community services that includes everyone.

☐

Small town community with a love of reading, books and one another. Community with great schools, and opportunities for youth.

☐

One to stay just as South Pasadena is today, i.e., not gentrified.

☐

Quiet, friendly . Clean environment

☐

diverse, welcoming, educated.

☐

The South Pasadena Community is Unique and I love living here. Love the library, walks, shops, restaurants, police dept., fire dept., great people.

☐

Don't know

☐

ours

☐

Educated

☐

diverse, intelligent, cooperative

☐

Book and knowledge prone!

☐

socially caring and interactive

☐

cozy but resourceful

☐

A unified one that is always working to improve the culture. Also one that focuses on the development of youth and mental wellness.

☐

Safe, diverse, eclectic, progressive.

☐

A safe place where people are accepted and encouraged to learn, share ideas, and support one another.

☐

Friendly.

☐

An inclusive community that highly values learning new things.

☐

A community that would never consider voting for Trump for President.

☐

Quiet

☐

harmonic, respect, courage and learn from each other.

☐

A vibrant, friendly community

☐

Informed about current issues in the US and around the world. Be open minded.

☐

An active and engaged community. Your resources provide enrichment, growth and learning opportunities. Growing these resources is GREAT!

☐

multicultural, all income levels

☐

Diverse, well-read, passionate about learning, curious, compassionate, open-minded

☐

A socially and economically just community

☐

Safe community space

☐

An inclusive, fun, neighborly community.

☐

Thoughtful, enlightened and actively caring community

☐

One where its members respect each other's culture, circumstances, , and assist each other to thrive.

☐

inclusive

☐

People meeting people face to face, not on line

☐

one that reads

☐

Full of reading environment.

☐

A diverse, educated and well informed community that is engaged in making our community better.

☐

A nice one

☐

One that promotes literacy and access to information and books for all ages and all members of the community, across the education, income, and ability spectrum

☐

Peaceful and friendly

☐

Safe, clean, productive

☐

Fair would be good.

☐

A close knit, interactive one

☐

safe, educated, interested in culture and arts.

☐

A friendly and safe community.

☐

Friendly and safe

☐

Mayberry!

☐

A welcoming one.

☐

Safe and healthy

☐

Cohesive and literate

☐

One free of violence and crime with free education and jobs. Wish me luck.

☐

happy with south pas

☐

Safe, quiet and friendly.

☐

One that is inclusive of all ages and family types, and not so entirely focused on families with young & school aged children

☐

multiple cultures, community involvement

☐

Friendly

☐

One that is focused on creating a beautiful and historical area for everyone and that is more focused on single adults without kids. More creative and nightlife options and events for that group.

☐

library oriented

☐

An informed, engaged community.

☐

A safe and friendly one

☐

Community or library? What's wrong with books? movies, data access? We need to be functional. Know how to access information, data, books, regs, etc.

☐

Accepting and respectful of others

☐

A safe community

☐

Diverse

☐

Sharing, charitable, curious

☐

I am quite content with it currently.

☐

Tolerant, diverse, creative, fun.

☐

Low volume automobile & truck traffic.

☐

information literate

☐

It is already a great community. Let's keep it that way.

☐

Close knit, friendly, neighbor helping neighbor

☐

Friendly, inclusive, curious, creative, and supportive. A larger collection would also be good with interlibrary loan. More community programs would also be good.

☐

An integrated and welcoming community with plentiful resources and guidance for all in search thereof.

☐

A well-read one.

☐

An empowered community that works together and provides quality services to all.

☐

South Pasadena is already a good community.

☐

Safe and vibrant.

☐

a community focused on promoting creative, humanistic and environmental progress.

☐

A community that understands all cultures. One that is willing to educate all those that need it with little or no cost.

☐

Friendly, accepting and encouraging of diverse populations in an erudite environment.

☐

intelligent and informed and connected

☐

I would like a friendly and multifunctional community.

☐

Open to all

☐

Aesthetically pleasing, outdoor benches, clean, with available waste disposal units, affordable or free multi hour parking, government employees who are customer minded, non confrontational attitude. Places where people can get a cup of coffee and a sandwich, smoke free, annual events, open air performances during warmer months, playgrounds, walk friendly paths, schools that offer evening classes. So Pas has many of these things and offers good quality of life as a consequence. "More of the same"

☐

well educated with access to various types of media

☐

A friendly, considerate, and helpful community.

☐

A curious and caring community.

☐

City government to provide more and better services and safe community.

☐

Safe and kind

☐

a safe one, where I don't have look over my shoulders

☐

A community where everyone feels a part of it and literacy and Art are valued. And a place where people look out for each other.

☐

One that is diverse, interconnected, compassionate, active in civic life, and has the ability to learn and become better with informed because it has an incredible library.

☐

Smart

☐

I would love to see the library as a community hub. Especially an Arts and Culture, Humanities-Social Science community hub.

☐

Supportive

☐

Progressive, diverse, educated

☐

A friendly community that is helpful towards each other. Values the idea of educating in objective areas of knowledge.

☐

I want an engaging community that is good for raising children

☐

Small, friendly, resource rich

☐

A lively, interactive community. Book club and maker space are cool ideas

☐

Walkable / transit. Culturally mixed.

☐

Tolerant, nurturing

☐

I think South Pasadena is just the right kind of community for us.

☐

one that intrigues people to want to learn more and drives them to help do accomplish things that helps the world become a better place.

☐

Informed, friendly, colloquial.

☐

I would like to see more study groups for seniors.

☐

Close-knit, unified in diversity, welcoming, open, friendly, caring, supportive of all members.

☐

Literate and one that fully engages critical thinking

☐

Intelligent, well-read, educated

☐

One that focuses on all ages of the community's citizens -- including the senior citizens.

☐

I love South Pasadena community!!

☐

Safe and community friendly.

☐

Integrated & supportive

☐

The kind that support and maintain libraries like SP LIBRARY.

☐

Positive, vibrant, opportunity for connection

☐

Safe, smart, social

☐

Inclusive

☐

Helpful to each other, promotes the arts, promotes dialog, beautiful places to be when not working

☐

One that reads a lot, questions a lot and contributes a lot.

☐

Lots of smart and sane people. Competent people aren't so afraid they need to be rabidly hostile. Not trump minions.

☐

Integrated

☐

Close knit, active

☐

Inclusive

☐

Peaceful, interested in learning and sharing.

☐

Not sure

☐

Diverse and welcoming

☐

a literate, friendly, and a feeling of a small town.

☐

friendly, open and inclusive

☐

Friendly, supportive, safe, educated, open-minded, and clean.

☐

Friendly, kind, caring, considerate, cooperative, treating folks like they want to be treated. Open and helpful were needed. Seniors get left behind a lot lately. While we are living longer, we tend to be a throw away group to some areas, or venues. America doesn't see seniors as the wise elders as other countries do. So we are disrespected, and looked down upon. Maybe you could have a really nice section for seniors, even though the center is next door. Just a thought. I am an active senior retired. I am a mentor coach and spiritual advisor.

☐

safe, progressive

☐

a civil one, one that uses science and evidence-based information to make important decisions.

☐

A community where children read for fun.

☐

A community that looks out for each other.

☐

Educated community.

☐

Supportive, friendly.

☐

Connected, respectful, peaceful

☐

Successful, thoughtful community that is clean, well-cared for and lively.

☐

A well-educated one!

☐

One that loves libraries and the library loves them back. Keep it the last bastion of democracy,

☐

One I will never achieve in this lifetime. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one, maybe someday you'll join us and the world will live as one. Sorry if you've heard that before.

☐

Open, welcoming, light friendly, equality minded, education oriented.

☐

One where we have a place to come together, like the library.

☐

compassionate

☐

Educated and ethical.

☐

Family friendly and full of arts

☐

supportive

☐

Open, welcoming, diverse, supportive.

☐

Diverse.

☐

Informed, actively involved in the larger LA community.

☐

Family friendly, safe.

☐

Open and Safe

☐

A peaceful one

☐

A peaceful, respectful, and loving community.

☐

peaceful

☐

A well read, educated, and involved community

☐

The one that we have no is excellent. Very family oriented

☐

Walkable , friendly and informed.

☐

Safe, lots of walking, friendly, engaged.

☐

Welcoming, friendly

☐

Open

☐

Economically and culturally diverse, committed to the common good of the city and prepared to care for one another when tough times arise.

☐

The kind that embraces all things that enrich and enhance life. Libraries enrich and enhance.

☐

A community with more services for the homeless.

☐

I want convenience from the library, many books, and peace. Those are very important things I want from the South Pasadena Public Library.

☐

A community that is connected with lots of opportunities for fun and learning

☐

I am old fashioned and really depend on a library for books, but I'd also like to see South Pasadena become more of a center for the neighborhood. I am glad that you are looking to expand services and, perhaps, your hours.

☐

Peaceful and Loving.

☐

Close-knit, educated, safe

☐

I love the SP community

☐

A friendly one that includes a variety of people

☐

I want an inclusive, respectful, engaged community.

☐

No comment, as I cannot think of anything.

☐

A helpful, positive, progressive community where we are caring for others but also not afraid to make positive changes to help people.

☐

open caring place where all feel welcome and included

☐

Literate and informed

☐

One of giving back so all will benefit

☐

A well educated community with public safety and a rich cultural experience.

☐

I want to preserve small town atmosphere, while encouraging and preserving smaller businesses to thrive and survive.

☐

I have what I want, for the most part. South Pas is a quiet, family-oriented community.

☐

More opportunities for seniors.

☐

A community where all residents of South Pas feel welcomed and valued.

☐

Like we have here: Sharing, friendly, watch out for one another, educated, appreciate arts, has events to bring people out and together.

☐

One where everyone feels welcome at the library - casual borrowers, intense readers, students stopping by after school, adults research work opportunities/taking citizenship classes. Having more meeting rooms would be a great asset.

☐

Safe, quiet, friendly community.

☐

welcoming, tight, friendly

☐

I want a community that values opportunities for education, whether it's in the schools or self-directed at the public library.

☐

A literate one.

☐

Safe, diverse community able to have civil discourse about issues of importance. Community library that serves and uplifts the community and sponsors event that bring together the diversity in the community. A community in harmony built on mutual respect and communication. Public servant and elected officials that are not self-serving and working for the common good. They communicate openly with residents.

☐

Safe, attractive, highly educated, with exposure to artistic activity. Appealing and creative construction (let's talk about the McDonalds rebuild on Fair Oaks.) Transparent. efficient and responsive government.

☐

Progressive, liberal.

☐

Love So Pas, you have to time your errand running, library visits around traffic.

☐

collaborative, socially aware and supportive, open minded, holds tons of social events, education and arts are both very important

☐

An inclusive and diverse one in which everyone believes that giving back and contributing to the "community" is as important as providing for one's self and one's family.

☐

Safe, walkable and lots of "mom & pop" stores, antiques stores and self sufficient (own police, fire & paramedic, etc.)

☐

Inclusive, educated, tolerant, kind

☐

The kind we have.

☐

Open to all people and access to all kinds of help, especially from any staff in any type of city organization...

Q24. What concerns do you have about the community?

151 responses

That the library does not reach everyone in the community.

☐

High cost of housing

☐

Gentrification.

☐

Specially the community where the library is right now. To few parking spaces

☐

too insular and entitled.

☐

Crime! Individuals who do not keep up their property.

☐

Not sure

☐

its just life

☐

Elementary school campus are overcrowded for their respective neighbors. Reopen the Oneonta campus and stop overbuilding the other three schools

☐

High cost of housing

☐

I like the way it is now. Physically it would be nice if Fremont wasn't the thru-way it is now.

☐

too much retreat to technology and lack of empathy in digital communication

☐

I would like the community to implement community gardens and recycling programs.

☐

Having moved here from Los Angeles, I feel that it's a bit insular.

☐

People not caring about each other.

☐

That we are not keeping up the infrastructure: library, roads, water pipes, etc.

☐

lack of more diversity

☐

As long time members of the community leave the traditions that give South Pasadena charm are no longer being valued.

☐

None.

☐

Too many noisy kids

☐

crowding

☐

understanding different individuals and cultures

☐

It is getting too expensive to live in for young adults

☐

Space. It's a great location, but can you grow it and extend it without taking away "other" good resources?

☐

wealth inequality and the problem with the 710

☐

Fearful of "others", not-so-diverse

☐

Overall our community is good, there could be better communication about goings-on, businesses, etc. I feel now if something is of interest you kind of have to search it out on your own, not something readily available.

☐

More empathy and active helping (i.e. myself too)

☐

That it does not recognize the elderly and those who may not be excessively wealthy.

☐

wealth gap

☐

Safety.

☐

Poverty and homelessness.

☐

Could it be nicer?

☐

I think a great thing about the South Pas library is how it's a gathering place for students (after school) and for adults who want to spend time working or reading. I think it would benefit all to have a space that offers lots of natural light, plentiful seating + outlets, and strong WiFi signal + WiFi speed

☐

Needless changes disguised as improvements.

☐

The homeless making their sections unpleasant

☐

Safety.

☐

Safety

☐

I have noticed that the last few times I have been to the library there have been homeless in the restrooms and in the "park" surrounding the library. It makes it feel a bit unsafe.

☐

Not much, other than the commercial burglaries

☐

Not enough interest in the physical space to preserve a dedicated place for learning

☐

Police violence targeting minorities especially Black male youth.

☐

Crime continues to increase and the perps seem to be coming from other communities to prey on our residents and businesses (based on what I read in the local paper).

☐

expense of living here. New immigrants not being in touch with resources. Homeless in library driving away customers. Lack of resources driving away staff/patrons.

☐

Segregated

☐

Income inequality. Increasing foreign investors that are not interested in the community. Less community connections and decrease feelings of acceptance if you are not in the affluent 'in group' of the area. A large increase in unfriendly, self-absorbed nouveau riche people. There are too many family and kid only events and activities. There are a lot of single adults that need consideration as well.

☐

that they are eager

☐

Gang or drug culture.

☐

See all my snarky remarks above. Libraries are places to learn how to study, research, access and use information. Why not focus on this? More authors, more books, more talks, more poetry.

☐

closed minded at times but not maliciously so

☐

Keeping the small town safe and homey atmosphere.

☐

It can be awkward and unpleasant when homeless people are in the space for hours. I know you cannot do anything about it, but the odor can be inescapable.

☐

Crowding

☐

SP is too over-run by cross traffic.

☐

Homeless in the library.

☐

We have a very pricey town and young families cannot afford to live here. As a result, our community may be aging . I'm not advocating bringing in low income housing but we can have some things that attract younger people into our community

☐

I don't have concerns.

☐

n/a

☐

It's too expensive in that area. :(

☐

Our community seems old-fashioned and set in it's ways.

☐

There's a good amount of angry seniors in the area.

☐

Physical infrastructure

☐

over-use of technology, not enough interaction.

☐

There seem to be a cultural chasm that need to be addressed.

☐

None

I am concerned that we will loose the book group.

☐

An entrenched bureaucracy marked by nepotism, neglect of maintenance of public spaces, overly aggressive, predatory parking and traffic enforcement.

☐

not enough money gets to the library

☐

Do not know at the moment.

☐

People are getting very selfish. We need better services from city.

☐

I feel sorry for the homeless. They should have More help. But I don't like to see them there late at night. It scares me that we live too close to the metro station because so many people could easily come to town. However, it's very convenient.

☐

Lack of natural affection for anyone or anything.

☐

Not keeping up enough with progressive education

☐

Perhaps having beliefs, such as political, invalidated by community members who believe the popular opinion is the right one.

☐

cost of living, leading to gentrification.

☐

None

☐

Income inequality, integrating different groups into the community

☐

Do we serve the poorest/least able among us

☐

People need to know the value of the library and why it's so important (it's helps with education and studying for not just teens but also adults)

☐

No concerns about south pas

☐

I have only been here a year and a half, not long enough to notice problems, but it does seem that we could do better about diversifying the community. Housing prices are so high it's difficult to achieve socioeconomic and even racial and ethnic diversity.

☐

They don't really critically think. They think they do, but what they do is to cling to ideas they like and research ways to reaffirm those beliefs without ever challenging them.

☐

None

☐

That people don't go to libraries.

☐

Dependent on technology, less focus on literature

☐

That it stays safe for walking around after dark.

☐

economic

☐

It is very expensive. I am scared to one day be priced out. I am a renter. Buying a home in this wonderful area will never happen for us.

☐

Lately, political of course, the direction our country is heading towards, social problems such as extreme inequalities, poverty, lack of justice and our approach of an Orwellian society.

☐

Gentrification and unsustainable rent increases. This is destabilizing.

☐

Integration

☐

Making sure everyone is welcome

☐

Parking enforcement is much too aggressive around the library .??

☐

Inadequate parking in Mission West

☐

too many nail salons and massage parlors

☐

There have been an increasing number of transients/homeless people coming into South Pasadena. Do not let this influx ruin our library as it has ruined other community libraries in Los Angeles. This may sound cold, but it is a reality.

☐

Pretty much like the above. I would like to know that we are all safe. I love the Thursday Farmers Market. I think with our current climate, safety is important. I am turned off by loud people and folks that hang out at the train terminals on in the Farmer's Market park area just watching people, and they are not neighbors.

☐

currently don't have concerns that come to mind. In general for society as a whole I think there is too much misinformation and too many people propagating this further. Facts and critical thinking are important and too many in our society practice the opposite.

☐

The homeless who use the library seem pretty mellow but I wonder if they could be guided to treatment or housing ?

☐

Raising in criminality is a concern. I do not share the enthusiasm for new multi-complexes; they may bring overcrowding and excessive traffic.

☐

Respect, understanding of each other.

☐

Cuts in services from city in next recession.

☐

That the focus is gradually shifting to less edification and these spaces are getting less and less use.

☐

Cost of housing is driving me out.

☐

I would like to see more activity and interest around social change and social justice issues.

☐

The teenagers in the library are often very loud.

☐

It could be more concerned about the welfare of its citizens.

☐

The quality of education has deteriorated in the last twenty years and I am concerned that reading will not be as big a priority.

☐

The proximity to high way exits and how that increases traffic and decreases kids' freedom to play outside.

☐

Lack of diversity. Getting too expensive to live there.

☐

Ignorance. Living in a bubble, unaware of disparities in race and economics.

☐

Amount of homeless people hanging out in the South Pasadena Library is disconcerting.

☐

Too many New Condos

☐

None

☐

affordability

☐

Kids and drugs

☐

There are too many renters.

☐

Not engaged in the issues, people more interested in their own families/friends not the town as a whole.

☐

City is not addressing the parking needs of the library and other areas in the City

☐

Petty crime has skyrocketed in the past two years. It needs to stop.

☐

What kind of library does the community want? What does the community care about?

☐

Homelessness

☐

It's a little bit hard to find books you want. For me, it's a little bit complicated. I know a lot of people who have the same problems.

☐

That maybe we're too insular, also too focused on kids' academic performances rather than their general well-being.

☐

Segregation of people.

☐

None

☐

Rise in theft, burglary

☐

It's really sheltered and there's not much activity other than Mission St. Also, there's not much to do after 10 pm.

☐

No comment..

☐

I think the community, the school district especially is afraid to embrace new changes that would benefit the students.

☐

???

☐

Too many Trump supporters

☐

Too much need by people to feel self important and controlling rather than being more giving.

☐

Lack of diversity

☐

I fear for small businesses and ability to fill some of empty stores, especially on Fair Oaks.

☐

I have fears about police over-reach. As quiet as our community is, we aren't immune to the ills that plague our society.

☐

Most resources go to schools. Seniors are not given enough computer classes at public library. Myself and a lot of friends would participate.

☐

Lack of diversity. Increased rental prices.

☐

Watching out for teens to take care of them (prevent crime, drugs, etc). Provide activities and spaces for middle schoolers, who are often left out.

☐

People leave the bathrooms a mess.

☐

There are more homeless people and massage shops. Streets that need repairs.

☐

Short-sighted financial concerns taking precedence over the quality of city service.

☐

Bifurcation. Isolation of people. Mistrust. Lack of broad representation of residents in government, executive position and decision making bodies.

☐

Dense residential construction (read the condos on Mission) and loss of the small businesses that give a community a unique personality. I really dislike seeing out-of-town developers building for maximum density (and profit) as they blow through the city. I sometimes feel that in terms of planning and development, the City has sold out. Given that there is very little buildable land left, we should demand the very highest quality projects.

☐

People who support Trump make me very nervous. We don't want bigots or extreme right-wing people ruining our country.

☐

Traffic congestion getting to the library, if you know side streets then you're in luck.

☐

not too many, I like that we are environmentally aware and take action

☐

I feel like it's dominated by children and teens and perhaps a kind of second home for some in the homeless community. Again, I really feel deep compassion for the homeless, so I do not advise pressuring them to leave, but I do advise encouraging County officials to help them find homes and places where they can gather and rest during the day if they're not specifically trying to use the library for its resources.

☐

Homeless - need a temporary place for them.

☐

I think the City Council should dump that idea of getting rid of all of our palm trees. Are they out of their minds?!

☐

None at this time.

Q25. What do you think is keeping the community from making progress?

145 responses

Not enough promotion of adult programs in the community.

☐

The size of our senior center and library are not adequate for the amount of people who access them. I think both should be expanded

☐

Don't know.

☐

Homeless inside the library and limitation of parking

☐

poor leadership.

☐

Perhaps Money?

☐

Don't know

☐

money

☐

City budgeting

☐

School district leadership stubbornly holds on to elcento HQ and inappropriately tries to run a real estate rental business by leasing out the mothballed campus near Fremont/Huntington

☐

Who says it isn't?

☐
☐

The cost of living (especially housing) is too high, which shuts out a lot of middle- and working-class people. It makes for an economically homogeneous community.

☐

South Pasadena seems to make a lot of regular progress in my opinion. That's why everyone wants to live in South Pas!

☐

There is a division between long time residents and newer ones.

☐

I don't know.

☐

Not enough freebies

☐

Courage

☐

Often lack of knowledge. Many in the community have no idea ALL the resources and opportunities available to them. Some think libraries "old fashioned" when they are in fact amazing places of diversity and resources. The community has to discover this somehow.

☐

more conversations and workshops related to community realities

☐

Market-driven living circumstances, consumerism

☐

Not sure.

☐

Fast paced, non-reflective and many times, selfish behavior

☐

Its elitist mentality. You have "made it" if you can afford to live in South Pasadena.

☐

wealth gap - hard to serve all residents

☐

none.

☐

We aren't dealing with poverty and homelessness and don't know help those with mental illness

☐

I don't know...

☐

It is sometimes difficult to find seating near outlets. The website is not that easy to navigate on a smartphone; it is especially difficult to find ebooks on the library website from a smartphone. I have spent time looking from my phone and can't find where to do this on the library website.

☐

Needless changes disguised as improvements.

☐

Need more community events (a craft making event in front of the library, like make your own broom, could help people develop skills and bring people together)

☐

housing is getting so expensive that we are selecting for a very elite of group with very high incomes.

☐

City Hall politics.

☐

Money

☐

money

☐

Lack of cohesive community planning? I don't hear of many venues for residents to get together to discuss community planning considerations

☐

The digital age

☐

Police corruption. Racism and its influence in politics.

☐

Effective leadership. Also, the fight to defeat the 710 freeway extension has used up money we could have used for the library and other city services. Once that issues dies, we can redirect our resources.

☐

Funds.

☐

Stereotypes

☐

Income inequality. Too expensive cost of living issues, especially housing, and having the 10% economy run everything in this area without outside input. There is a big 'in group/ out group' problem that keeps all

residents from feeling part of the community just because they are struggling financially, don't have kids or families or live in apartments. That is becoming a worsening problem by the day.

☐

sluggishness

☐

Horrible traffic

☐

Bureaucracy

☐

The concept that children rule everything. That electronic universe is the defining answer to everything.

☐

income divide

☐

Funding

☐

No more massage parlors

☐

It's lack of commercial tax base.

☐

I'm not sure

☐

The community is making progress. Events like 4th of July brings the community together.

☐

n/a

☐

Lack of money?

☐

People seem apathetic and un-empowered to make changes. Things seem set and people at the top are unapproachable.

☐

Communication to citizens is poor. One brief mailer or one small sign (or poster) re an important issue is insufficient

☐

do not know.

☐

Bias and ignorance.

☐

One issue mentality

☐

I do not know.

☐

Over emphasis on 710 freeway development, anti-growth mentality. It's possible to add residences and maintain green space (Holland does it). Inflexible attitude on zoning rules. Every housing expansion is viewed as "mansionization." Affordable housing brings unrealistic fears.

☐

politicians that are "owned"

☐

All the legal restrictions.

☐

City needs to provide better services to community.

☐

city management (council members) who aren't receptive to change

☐

I think the haves and the have not's don't even seem to know each other. There's a big drug problem here with teenagers. I think we should all learn to be a part of this community. I've lived here for almost a decade and yet there's so many people I do not know. I mean this is a small place, so why do so many of us not know each other? Many people just don't like to read like they used to. Something needs to be done to bring it back to the masses.

☐

Man

☐

I think progress is a scary word that people should consider much more deeply before using it as an accepted "good." It is a very broad term, as well, and we don't have an accepted definition for it, but we use it as if we do. This could be an example of an interesting community panel at the Library!

☐

Different age groups are not in touch with each other. Those born in the 60s do not see eye to eye with those born in the 80s or 90s in many cases.

☐

to much attention is paid to community character, I support reasonable change

☐

Don't know

☐

An exclusionary attitude toward newcomers

☐

Funding

☐

not sure

☐

I don't know

☐

High housing prices driving people away.

☐

Define progress.

☐

The reluctance to pass bonds or monetary assistance for local program improvements.

☐

Small town atmosphere political infighting.

☐

Technology=less interactions

☐

no shared vision, personal economic concerns

☐

?

☐

Selfishness, we just don't show the kind of care like we used to, especially towards one another and the willingness to stick our neck out and question the system and its status quote

☐

See previous answer - outrageous rent increases are squeezing people out in favor of gentrification and the down home flavor will disappear. Mom and pop businesses on pedestrian friendly streets is what the country needs more of, not less

☐

Don't know.

☐

Great divide between have and have nots and who has influence

☐

Equal opportunities

☐

Parking fines and the graffiti artists

☐

lack of vision

☐

Funding perhaps. Also perhaps lack of general all age (kids, teens, adults) community events...a library bbq would be great.

☐

People are discouraged a lot these days. Pasadena has always been a wonderful place to be, to visit, and to enjoy great meals, adult beverages, family and fun. I think merchants can start screening patrons in a non infictive way to feel us out. I do that when i go to restaurants. I ask employees if they like their job, and watch how they serve. I also watch patrons. It's interesting how people get their egos wrapped up when they go out. Gives me the yuks.

☐

Ignorance. Religion in many cases. Poor education... speaking generally for society, not necessarily about SoPas

☐

Lack of funds?

☐

Likely politicians that have a goal in financial gains for the city.

☐

Isolation due to smartphones, technology, etc.

☐

NIMBYS

☐

Sometimes we make excuses about being too busy instead of participating

☐

Greed

☐

Middle class complacency, and also the economic duress of affording to live in South Pas.

☐

The library can sometimes feel like a cave. Maybe making it more open and bright.

☐

don't know

☐

Laziness and depression.

☐

sin

Nothing, it seems pretty good.

☐

Cost of everything.

☐

Affordable housing is scarce so only a certain type of person or family can afford to live here, making the community small-minded and somewhat homogeneous.

☐

Lack of renovation on public programs/infrastructures. Also, stay strict on keeping the community safe, that is why most of us live here.

☐

Don't know

☐

Alot

☐

the community is good

☐

There are many temporary residents that don't care about the community.

☐

Lack of cross-cultural civic/political engagement and outreach.

☐

City council moves too slow

☐

Landlords charging too much per square foot for commercial rentals along Mission Street and Fair Oaks. The blighted eyesore of the Rialto looming over the center of town.

☐

Lack of information about what is really going on in the community.

☐

lack of funds for services.

☐

The library is pretty old, and it hasn't made much changes since. It could be the number of people, not enough books, and other things.

☐

Not sure

☐

I'm guessing money, but the library seems to be doing a good job at working with whatever budget it has.

☐

Division and dislike of "other" folks.

☐

Unknown

☐

Funding to improve and maintain infrastructure (ie: schools, library) and keep up with state-of-art technology

☐

It's really small.

☐

Poor infrastructure, set in old ways of thinking, outdated.

☐

No comment.

☐

Lack of a progressive attitude and unwillingness to change.

☐

Not sure

☐

Inadequate financial resources

☐

see #24

☐

Lack of affordable housing

☐

Human nature, such as implicit bias.

☐

Lots of old, white people.

☐

You are implying that the community is not making progress in some area. I'm not sure what you mean.

☐

Lack of finances.

☐

Resistance to ADA compliant improvements, along with paying attention to the terrible streetlighting and sidewalk/road conditions.

☐

I don't know that it isn't making progress-and what type of progress are we discussing?

☐

Regressive attitudes, closed minds.

☐

Traffic is the main concern, there is no room to widen streets so you have to have an attitude adjustment and be patient. It's small and quaint so that's the charm of So Pasadena.

☐

not sure

☐

Maybe trying to do too much.

☐

Probably monetary considerations!

☐

Resistant to change - unfortunately the "older" folks in South Pasadena has money and can call the shots that is why we had more than 4 failed revitalization efforts and developers are leary about doing business with South Pasadena.

☐

More money, of course.

☐

re expanding the library - some people think that So. Pas. is still "elderly heavy" re population and a more recent census disputes this...

☐

Residents

Q 26. What can be done to improve the community?

131 responses

Provide more programs that are inclusive of all in the community.

☐

Access to educational resources, resources for school age children and seniors.

☐

More hrs. Parking

☐

re-energize by engaging all members and listening to younger generation.

☐

Keep the progress moving and not stagnant

☐

Not sure

improve people's minds

☐

Maintain a balance of affordable vs. expensive housing

☐

See 24: less traffic

☐

More affordable housing.

☐

More library annexes

☐

More organized events. Continuing to teach children to value reading and books.

☐

Sorry. I don't know.

☐

Free lunch

☐

Communication on inter-cultural studies

☐

More forums for the public to weigh-in on progress and growth

☐

Improve word of mouth, maybe even advertising. Continuing to offer learning and enrichment opportunities, including the love of books and learning. Maybe workshops and art shows could be one way to pull more people in.

☐

Is there a book mobile program? Can fabrication literacy be introduced? - MAKER-programs that encourage learning to build and make things for oneself? The library will be a natural repository of free digital patterns as 3D printing becomes more ubiquitous. . . reading and research are important to design and building as much as more scholarly pursuits.

☐

Paper towels in the restroom

☐

Better communication across the community groups, businesses, etc.

☐

Actively pitch in and help

☐

I'm not sure. Rich folks don't listen to anyone

☐

more community events.

☐

none.

☐

I'm not sure.

☐

I don't understand this question - do you mean the South Pas community? or the people specifically who use the South Pas library?

☐

Public areas clean & kept. Address the transits & homeless campsites & loitering. ADDRESS TRAFFIC

☐

To uphold old fashion family values that make South Pasadena unique. And stop multiplying massage parlors.

☐

Get people outside and together

☐

Safety issues.

☐

I don't know

☐

For people to realize the importance of community and invest in their own community.

☐

Have fundraising events and food events for the community to take part in.

☐

Not much - I like the community as-is

☐

Outreach to the various individuals that make up the community

☐

I am not really sure except raise awareness.

☐

Hire more police officers and use our money effectively. Most of So Pas is single family homes so I don't understand why we spent so much money on a dog park...and don't get me started on the skate park that goes mostly unused and the attendant liability issues. Quite frankly, I would have preferred the money be given to the library.

☐

Unsure.

☐

Learn about the different cultures that make it up

☐

Lower cost of living, more affordable housing, rent controls, more input from single residents and those that are renting. More community events where single adults are the focus and increased job assistance for the underemployed and unemployed.

☐

keep on pushing

☐

More bike and jogging paths, alternate transportation modes such as city shuttle, renta bikes, etc.

☐

Everyone participate in whatever means they have available (like completing surveys).

☐

Poetry readings, book clubs, authors, talks that inspire people to learn and discover the world and the universe.

☐

continues and increased citizen involvement in local policy and public spaces (I no longer live in South Pasadena)

☐

More family events

☐

More arts and culture

☐

People can become more involved and engaging, willing to work together.

☐

Foster a more modern industrial/technological tax base.

☐

Build a tunnel, bridge, or other work around for the traffic delays and congestion the trains cause by blocking the road at Mission, in old town!

☐

Make our downtown an attractive place to shop, dine, entertain

☐

More coordinated activities that offer intergenerational groups to come together. With the senior center next door, a program where senior read to children or children read to seniors would be neat to have.

☐

Listen

☐

Raise minimum wage and lower rent.

☐

Asking people what they want is a great step.

☐

Reach out to seniors to help them get out of the house to do others things.

☐

Facilitate communication and awareness on important issues

☐

organizing fund raisers in order to create/promote creative and humanistic issues.

☐

Work on understanding and addressing bias and ignorance.

☐

Open discussions on diversity in a multiethnic multicultural America

☐

I don't know this either.

☐

Public- private partnerships. A growth policy that recognized growth is necessary will bring increased density, but can be managed

☐

give the homeless jobs, perhaps to help with keeping the streets clean?

☐

Remodel The Rialto Theatre and open it to public. Create an old town Pasadena hang out ambiance.

☐

City to provide better services and concern about the safety.

☐

Spaces that encourage learning and growth where we can connect to other neighbors as equals are key (like the library).

☐

Daniel 2:44

☐

Perhaps a setting where different groups of people of ages and backgrounds can discuss topics in a peaceful way.

☐

try to speed up traffic

☐

Don't know

☐

More diversity and openness, affordable housing

☐

Mutual aid

☐

not sure

☐

Not sure

☐

Vacant and dilapidated homes occupied or improved, rent control in certain areas.

☐

More free parking.

☐

Be more open to passing bonds or measures that would cost a little but provide great improvements to maintain and increase property values and services.

☐

Keep the library viable and open to all.

☐

Brighter and more street lights!

☐

I'm not sure, it is pretty depressing at times.

☐

Rent control, block parties that have actual content of value so people less isolated

☐

Don't know.

☐

Better outreach

☐

Supports to new parents to read talk sing to their child

☐

Better policing

☐

visionary leaders

☐

see above

☐

All that comes to mind is safety, and keeping it clean. I have noticed on Mission that the places that have tables outside tend to breed inconsiderate people that will just stand right in the middle of the walk way and not leave room for others, or people passing by. They won't move even if they see you coming. So I walk in the street. Not good. If you say excuse me they look at you like you said something wrong.

☐

have more buildings conform to renewable energy. go as "green" as possible.

☐

More and better education. More discourse. Specifically targeting misinformation and encouraging critical thinking and science.

☐

Get different ethnic/religious groups to meet and learn about each other. Undo the damage caused by Trump.

☐

Stop further multi-building.

☐

Open, safe communication.

☐

Better streets, more shops, more live performance space, more pedestrian spaces.

☐

Outreach programs and maker fairs.

☐

Moral compass

☐

Uncertain. I'm doing what I can. Another community garden would be good.

☐

Offer more writing programs to go along with your reading ones.

☐

don't know

☐

Provide incentive programs to those who learn more and do more.

☐

revival

☐

Affordable housing

☐

Not sure. It's a huge problem.

☐

Improve what is hindering progress. Keep homeless in check and renovate public programs and infrastructure.

☐

More art related spaces

☐

Alot

☐

Selling the CalTrans houses will help if real community members buy them.

☐

more public speaking events by civic leaders. More public debate.

☐

Re-Open the Rialto, put a restaurant or brewpub in the OroWheat Building, get rid of the "bulb outs" that impede traffic flow on Fair Oaks Ave.

☐

Make the library stronger so it can help everyone.

☐

I personally don't know. I may, but I can't find the extra information in my brain. Sometimes it doesn't work.

☐

Have better management

☐

Have equal vision for all.

☐

Unknown

☐

Pass Yes on SP!

☐

Have more destinations that would appeal to young adults / older teens.

☐

Better transparency and communication.

☐

No comment.

☐

??

☐

I'm not sure

☐

Personal responsibility, empathy, fair rules that are evenly enforced.

☐

More senior involvement and inclusion. Seniors need more resources.

☐

Budget well and don't waste.

☐

Being open to possible improvements without rigid adherence to always doing things the way they have been done in the past.

☐

It would be lovely to have less traffic--So Pasadena South Pasadena has thrown so many resources at the freeway battle for so long. It would be very good to finally find a way to lessen traffic on city streets. I think that skyrocketing residential real estate prices are a concern as they certainly limit the number of people able to own property.

☐

Get the 710 Freeway completed or create one-way streets through congested areas.

☐

its a great town already, not sure

☐

Invest in WiFi. Try to keep it quiet by encouraging teens (esp) to meet in cordoned off areas that are noise-buffered.

☐

Making sure that the sidewalks are made safe and tree roots are controlled effectively. City should device a tree planting system that prevents roots from destroying sidewalks.

☐

Plant more trees.

☐

Keep asking questions, think courtesy and offer help to newcomers...

Q27. What would success in the community look like to you?

125 responses

An ethnically diverse, inclusive, well informed, where the library is central to this.

☐

positive, fair treatment for everyone.

☐

Good streets, lots of trees, stop cutting down trees and replacement ones lost. more bike riding defined areas, Tidy homes and yards.

☐

A thriving arts community:, visual, musical and performing arts

☐

School district acting more so on behalf of entire city and neighborhoods, letting library expand into seniors center

☐

Diversity across cultural/age/income levels

☐

Lots of booklovers!

☐

lots of meeting, playing, talking, interacting

☐

people love here want to stay for ever, if possible

☐

People from many different economic and demographic backgrounds living and working together.

☐

Friendly neighborliness. Education. Collaboration.

☐

Having an informed and educated community that is extremely involved.

☐

Success would look like lots of people open to learning about the world, being accepting of others, realizing that we are all in this together and can benefit from interacting with others.

☐

No homeless and vagrants

☐

Cultural diversity

☐

Active centers around libraries that involves diverse populations and age groups. A comfortable and diverse place to work.

☐

we get along and help one another

☐

Job opportunities for all, inclusive programs, clean streets, and respectable citizens.

☐

Thriving without the crutch of floods of cheap imported goods. Value systems based on what one does feels and thinks rather than what one owns. The community would look different - more diverse in our incomes, heritage, and landscapes. The monotony of green lawns reminds the visitor that despite the reality of our climate, a normalizing force exists here that impedes people from responding and adapting. They fear to be different, to stand out, to be the first on the block to reject a cultural affectation. More home-based vegetable gardens, less green lawns!

☐

Getting to know the "neighbors" better.

☐

already stated in answer 23

☐

described above

☐

wide participation in public activities

☐

No idea

☐

Everyone has good grammar and spelling, doesn't litter, takes daily showers and uses deodorant, and is respectful of others.

☐

I don't understand this question - do you mean the South Pas community? or the people specifically who use the South Pas library?

☐

Public areas clean & kept. Address the transits & homeless campsites & loitering. ADDRESS TRAFFIC

☐

Maintain tradition and prohibit neon signs in South Pasadena. This isn't Hollywood or Las Vegas.

☐

People getting to know one another

☐

a diverse group of people with diverse interests, focused on making South Pasadena a nice place where to live.

☐

thriving businesses, community pride, safe

☐

Safe, healthy, and with plenty of business and recreational options

☐

A library that is never lonely

☐

Equal access for everyone to institutions like libraries.

☐

Crime free. Good schools. Upgraded services (streets, fiber optic Internet services, etc.) A library with an adequate budget!

☐

Tolerance and harmony

☐

Income equality, affordable housing, employment support, more focus on single adults and the activities that interest them.

☐

everything working well

☐

100% graduation rate and acceptance to 4-year college.

☐

A peaceful and togetherness of business and people.

☐

I am not sure. I love the idea of more talks, poetry readings, and electronic access to information I didn't know I had access to.

☐

South Pasadena is doing ok.

☐

A community with more programs for families, seniors, singles

☐

More public services available.

☐

Described above.

☐

I think we're pretty successful so far. We have been able to maintain a small town feel to our community

☐

South Pasadena is successful. I'd also recommend more collaboration with the schools.

☐

Thriving households and businesses with quality education and ample resources.

☐

Environmental consciousness, less homeless, etc.

☐

Great classes offered at modern community centers with high quality teachers, focus on environmental improvements like recycling, improvement to parks, running/biking paths, services for elderly, maybe even programs for elderly and children to interact. And, schools that focus on whole child, rather than test-taking (Marengo). Clean, public spaces for people to enjoy outdoors would be great.

☐

People are in harmony and care for each other.

☐

Increased personal involvement

☐

businesses/events that promote arts, environmental and humanistic issues.

☐

All to all

☐

One that is harmonious in knowledge and cultural understanding. One where everyone can feel at "home"

☐

Open mindedness on diverse topics which are not usually comfortable to discuss in a conservative environment.

☐

People smiling at each other, noticing and commenting on the books we are reading, people outside reading.

☐

Aesthetically attractive, transparency about expenditures, including salaries and benefits of major administrative positions, local public transit, public art.

☐

no graffiti, no homeless people, no litter

☐

not sure at the moment

☐

We all need to cooperate each other.

☐

That we feel safe and truly part of the community. That we find joy, friendship, entertainment, art, and we have a voice because of being a literate , etc.

☐

Balance

☐

That is a vague question, to me a success would be the ability to bring up any issue without confrontation.

☐

A place where families continue to live.

☐

Happy, busy citizens who get along with each other

☐

Regular participation for activities like a book club etc

☐

All feel welcome and supported

☐

a place where people want to learn and value.

☐

More libraries?

☐

Diversity, community support for all members.

☐

Civil citizens

☐

A little better maintenance and modernization of services for the community.

☐

A clean safe city.

☐

Looking out for one another

☐

Resurfacing of the bumpy and cracked streets and better sidewalk easements for wheel chairs and walkers.

☐

A place where we can live in harmony and lack of stress, but not in a sheltered environment where the haves and have nots are so clearly separated and divided. A place where we can work to live, not live to work. A place where people are not afraid of each others, where we can speak our minds freely and willingly.

☐

Library could be a good hub for creative's & entrepreneurs to mix & catalyze homegrown resources & improvements

☐

Membership growth.

☐

More diversity at city and elected level

☐

Students from different backgrounds starting more even in kindergarten

☐

More locations, more books, more attractive internal spaces.

☐

Making slow but positive progress toward defined goals

☐

friendly, happy, open people having fun, reading books9

☐

Much of the above. I've crafted questions like this that ask the same things on my study. I know why you do it. So I will say that safety, cooperation, kindness, friendliness, and respect for community is important. Enforcing that would work.

☐

Less religion, superstition. Less people believing that buying and eating organic is better for you. The day I see people at a farmer's market not marketing organic then I'll know the demand and push for such overpriced items has ceased cos the public generally has caught on to the BS. Otherwise not sure how to take the communities critical thinking temperature.

☐

A peaceful, healthy place with a mix of ages and cultures.

☐

Small educated well-knit community.

☐

Good schools, safe neighborhoods, respectful residents.

☐

Reaching different groups, connecting, understanding what others experiences are. Having public servants devoted to specific areas (such as law enforcement that are responsible for deep understanding of and implementation of law for victims of specific crimes (i.e. That may affect female community members more specifically), so that those issues aren't mishandled.

☐

Well-cares for public spaces and a peaceful but also vibrant place

☐

More participation, high level of involvement.

☐

Lasting non profit foundation that supports the library and keeps it a first rate institution. More separation from the City.

☐

More attention to paradigmatic shift and change; more attention to dealing with climate change, income inequality, and other pressing issues of the day. Looks like humanity's days are numbered, but I continue to fight on.

☐

Seeing more people at the library.

☐

would have to think long and hard about that

☐

People working, volunteering, and not being so concerned with enjoying themselves all the time at the expense of others. A place where all our old buildings are refurbished and our roads are kept up.

☐

People putting others first

☐

Place where every ethnic, economic class can live. Good schools. Great shops. Libraries. Community centers, parks, etc.

☐

Hard question

☐

Better upkeep on the buildings

☐

A new community center and a remodeled and expanded library

☐

I'm not sure what that question means.

☐

Everyone's included and everyone has a chance to succeed

☐

Modern, but not too much.

☐

Togetherness.

☐

Close-knit, educated, safe

☐

An environment where people actually want to walk around and hang out.

☐

More civic engagement

☐

Equality of opportunity for all, not just a select few.

☐

Safe and beautiful city.

☐

Keeping the best of South Pasadena's small-town character along with flexibility in adapting to and taking advantage of better ways of doing things.

☐

Read #23.

☐

work on traffic flows through the community

☐

we are successful. everyone wants to live here.

☐

Close to what it looks like now.

☐

Safe where we don't have to have security alarm systems and bolting our doors and shutting our windows.

☐

That taxpayer money was spent wisely.

☐

Improve the "downtown" look and have more voters in favor of revitalization...

Not sure

☐

what we have

No comment